

News Release  
U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Rhode Island

September 6, 2005



## Ten-year, maximum sentence for firearms violation

A federal judge has sentenced **Daniel Shepard**, of Central Falls, to ten years in federal prison – the maximum sentence – for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In June, just as he was about to go on trial on a carjacking charge, Shepard pleaded guilty to the firearms offense, admitting that he had a handgun in his pocket when Providence Police approached him on November 9, 2004.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on September 1 in U.S. District Court, Providence. In imposing the maximum sentence, Judge Smith took into account the carjacking incident, in which Shepard seized a car at gunpoint and shot the car's owner in the leg.

At the plea hearing in June, Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein said that the government could prove that, on November 9, 2004, Providence Police officers confronted Shepard in front of 200 Gordon Street. When Shepard refused to show his hands, the officers drew their weapons. Shepard then pulled out a gun and tossed it into a car. Officers arrested Shepard and seized the gun, a .380 caliber pistol.

The carjacking occurred in Woonsocket just before midnight on September 8. A firearms examiner at the Rhode Island Crime Lab matched shell casings from the handgun that Providence Police seized to a shell casing found at the scene of the carjacking.

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Shepard, 28, of 126 Sumner Street, Central Falls, has several prior felony convictions, including attempted larceny, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and drug possession.

**Providence Police, Woonsocket Police, North Smithfield Police,** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Goldstein and Craig N. Moore prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 650 years in federal prison.

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